

Inlander Health and Home Magazine, September 08, 2025

## Spokane author Susie Weller offers travel advice and more in her new book

By Ellis Benson



Courtesy photo

The Weller family on a trip to Florence in 2004.

**S**usie Weller's friends like to call her a female Rick Steves, and for good reason. Having visited 34 countries, Weller is well-acquainted with everything that relates to traveling.

To share that knowledge, as well as how traveling has informed and strengthened her faith, Weller recently wrote and published *52 Global Reflections: A Pilgrim's Travel Memoir*. In this increasingly turbulent political ecosystem, Weller hopes her book inspires readers to expand their horizons.

"I want people to consider being global citizens, especially in our current political climate," says Weller, who works as a life coach in Spokane and specializes in helping people manage family or work conflicts.

Over and over in her travels, Weller has found local connections that showcase just how generous humans can be. She usually stays in youth hostels and packs light, though she suggests that people bring portable inflatable mattresses and pack a few small plates and bowls. And then she recommends getting away from tourist hot spots to learn firsthand about the local culture.

"If people are really nervous, I think going with a tour group — whether it be Rick Steves or Road Scholar tour group or something — that encourages people to connect in with local people," Weller says.



Courtesy photo

Susie and Mark Weller on a trip to the Middle East in 2023.

Each chapter of the book focuses on a different theme and location and is a readable standalone, and Weller also includes personal reflection questions at the end of each chapter. Organizing the book this way makes it possible for individual readers or book groups to pick a section to focus on for a dive deep on a specific topic.

Next up on Weller's itinerary is fulfilling a promise she made to herself: a trip revisiting a route she took 50 years ago. "I promised myself that 'I'm gonna come back [to the Rhine River] with my husband,'" Weller says. "So almost 50 years later we're planning to go back to the Rhine River, with my husband."